



## Frederick Elementary

### **Meeting Notes (2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting):**

**June 17, 2015**

**Kyle Leggs - SW District Planner**

The second INSPIRE meeting for the Frederick Elementary School community was held on June 17, 2015 at the Christian Community Church of God (2701 W. Baltimore Street) from 6pm - 8pm. A total of 36 people participated in the meeting, including representatives from the communities of Shipley Hill, Mill Hill, Carrollton Ridge, McHenry-Frederick-Franklinton, Boyd Booth, Fayette Street Outreach, and Gwynns Falls along with nearby faith based organizations (Mason Memorial Church of God, and Power of Christ Ministries), the West Side Shopping Center, Bon Secours, Baltimore City Public Schools, City Planning, and 3 other City agencies (Mayor's Office, DOT, Housing-Code Enforcement). Participants were given a PowerPoint presentation that provided a recap and an overview of the INSPIRE process and an update of current projects and efforts underway that are within the planned area boundaries.

The following areas and topics were discussed in the meeting:

### **HOUSING / CODE ENFORCEMENT / SANITATION**

- Efforts are underway to initiate and prioritize the demolition of vacant and blighted houses in this area due to INSPIRE. Participants were reminded that the 1998 OROSW Plan had the same vision to reduce housing vacancies through strategic demolition and rehabilitation.
- Planning noted several nuisance properties in the area that the Community Law Center has targeted for litigation and noted that efforts are underway to work with them to target additional properties.
- The vacant and blighted historic house at the corner of Frederick Avenue and Millington directly across from the school was also depicted on the map as a priority for code enforcement.
- Housing's SW Code Enforcement Officer was present and informed the group that we have worked together to establish sanitation enforcement zones in key areas around the school. Participants were also shown broader areas in Carrollton Ridge that need more sanitation and code enforcement.
- Residents were reminded to call 311 to report all sightings of the improper disposal of trash placed in alleys without cans, and reoccurring problems with dumping in the area.
- Recommendations were made that there is also a need to educate residents about the proper disposal of trash and that this area would be ideal for a trial Municipal Trash Can Program. References were made to the 1998 OROSW Plan that recommended developing a community education sanitation strategy, and the 2002 OROSW Plan that also recommended sanitation improvements in this area.
- \*I was also noted at the Shipley Hill meeting the following night that Baltimore City Police should increase their patrols in and around the same areas that are known for dumping.

## **LAND USE / RECREATION / OPEN SPACE**

- Zoning for the area was also discussed and participants were shown a map of the proposed zoning changes primarily along Franklinton Road where for years there have been large parcels of land zoned for Heavy Industrial uses that are now being recommended for Office Residential (O-R), or in some areas, Industrial Mixed Use (IMU) as part of Transform Baltimore - The City's new Zoning Code/Recommendations currently being reviewed by the City Council.
- Catherine ABC Park (Targeted to undergo a complete renovation) was mentioned during the presentation as an example of neighborhood projects. Derwin Hannah and Mike Dorsey spoke about current efforts to create a "Friends of ABC Park" and noted a number of efforts underway to develop more programming at the park in conjunction with the recreation center at Samuel F. B Morse Elementary School.
- Plans to create a new small scale BIO Swail and decorative Park at 700 Baltimore Street (Former Bus Loop) were also shared with participants. This proposed park area also overlooks the Gwynns Falls stream and trail, and would be an ideal pocket park destination with benches and play areas. The suggested improvements to this park area would also eliminate and prevent dumping on this site.
- Continuing efforts to connect the community to the Gwynns Falls Valley/Trail from Franklinton Road was also noted as a priority.
- City owned vacant lots in the area were mentioned as part of the city's Growing Green Initiative Program and can also present opportunities for additional greening, vacant lot fencing and/or decorative art at these locations. Other vacant lots in the area were also noted as opportunity sites to include the large vacant lot behind St. Benedict's Church that would be ideal for new housing. Referenced again was the 2002 OROSW Plan that recommended vacant land restoration improvements in this area.
- The Planning Department's Growing Green Initiative Coordinator has also arranged to fence the vacant lot on Emerson Street to help beautify the area and prevent dumping.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Participants were shown a large map that targeted key areas for crosswalk improvements along Frederick Avenue and nearby crosswalks along Ashton and Wilkens Avenues.
- Recommendations were also made to target traffic calming along Frederick Avenue in the front of the school from the Frederick Avenue Bridge to Willard Street .
- Participants were also informed about the need to explore a student path or walkway at the Southeast end of Frederick Elementary School beginning at the intersection of Helen and Dulany Street. This new walkway would vastly improve student access to and from the school where a large number of students are projected to travel.
- Planning will also continue to explore either placing a barrier at, or closing Lehman Street at Millington Avenue below the school to prevent reoccurring problems of heavy dumping.
- Another priority will be targeting heavy amounts of oversized truck traffic and safety issues along Franklinton Road. Participants were informed that efforts have been made and are continuing to be made to address this problem.
- Safe Routes to School and walkability was mentioned as a high priority for school age kids walking to and from school along with area residents. Additional neighborhood crosswalks will therefore be targeted for improvements.
- Participants were also informed that efforts should be made to explore signage along Frederick Avenue to identify it as a National Historic Road.

## **VACANT INDUSTRIAL BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES**

- Mr. Andrew Cook (Planning Department) spoke about a recent bus tour of the area, wherein we visited the nearby C.L. McCoy Framing Company located at Smallwood and McHenry Streets to promote examples of successful manufacturing businesses and jobs in the local community. He also mentioned that as part of the tour we stopped at the vacant Eigenbrot Brewery Building on Willard Street to feature it as an ideal building to renovate and bring additional jobs to the community.
- Noted also was the vacant building at the corner of Franklinton Road and Baltimore Street opposite the Church, that should be targeted for demolition.
- Participants were also shown areas in the community that are inundated with vacant industrial and blighted buildings that should be demolished to create other land use opportunities.
- Tony & Mary's Corner Grocery Store (NBC make over store) at 13 S. Franklinton Road was noted as an example of a positive retail establishment in the community that other businesses can emulate.

## **NEW PLANNING COMMITTEE TEAM**

- Following the update of current planning efforts, the Planning Department introduced a new strategy to formulate a Planning Committee Team that would participate in several community walks within the ¼ mile area and also serve as a steering committee to help determine additional specific areas for targeted improvements. Eleven (11) participants signed up for the Team along with an additional eight (8) at the Shipley Hill Meeting the following day.

\* Many thanks to Pastor Melvin Green of the Christian Community Church of God for hosting the meeting.